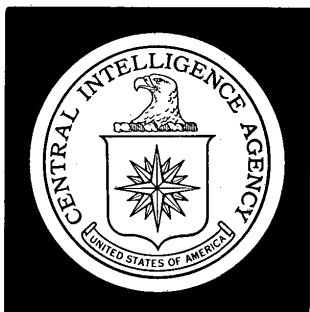




The President's Daily Brief



~~3 May 1971~~

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Sunday 3 May 1971

SUNDAY CABLE
May 2, 1971

CAMBODIA

Following Chuop Hell's refusal to organize a government, Chief of State Cheng Heng has--as anticipated--asked National Assembly President In Tam to undertake the task. Tam, who apparently wants the prime ministership and is confident that he can fill that post effectively, has told a US Embassy officer that he will consult with Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and others before he replies to Heng.

Some political oddsmakers in Phnom Penh believe that Tam will not be able to come up with a new cabinet, however. If and when Tam is eliminated, Son Ngoc Thanh evidently will be Heng's next nominee.

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On the military front, the US defense attaché reports that government forces have succeeded in reopening Route 4. Khmer Krom troops reportedly met little Communist opposition as they advanced into the Pich Nil Pass area on 1 May. They are now moving to relieve the two Cambodian battalions that have been besieged atop the pass since late last month.

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